



NORTH DAKOTA
DEPARTMENT of HEALTH

NEWS RELEASE

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Settlement Reached in Clean Air Act Case

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Health today announced the settlement of the Clean Air Act New Source Review (NSR) case against Minnkota Power Cooperative and Square Butte Electric Cooperative.

The settlement will reduce emissions of sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides from the cooperatives' plant near Center, N.D., by more than 33,000 tons per year. The pollution controls and other measures required, including supplemental expenditures for wind turbine projects, are expected to cost the cooperatives more than \$100 million.

The Department of Health worked closely on the case with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Justice. The case alleged that Minnkota Power and Square Butte Electric cooperatives violated NSR provisions by making modifications to the plant that increased emissions without first obtaining required permits from the state health department.

"This settlement is very important for North Dakota," said State Health Officer Terry Dwelle, M.D. "North Dakota is one of only a handful of states that meet all National Ambient Air Quality Standards. The significant reduction in emissions as a result of this settlement will ensure continued protection of the state's outstanding air quality while providing opportunity for energy and economic development."

For more information, contact Terry O'Clair, director, Division of Air Quality, at 701.328.5188.

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